



BUYING GUIDE: WAREHOUSING AND LOGISTICS

Guide to drinking
water solutions
for the Warehousing
and Logistics industry





Water is the most important thing we put into our body. Our bodies are comprised **of over 70%** water and so access to drinking water is important

Contents

-  Introduction..... **page 2**
-  Physical Challenges..... **page 3**
-  People Issues..... **page 5**
-  Health & Safety Issues..... **page 7**
-  Benefits of Point-of-Use..... **page 9**
-  Your Quick Reminder..... **page 11**
-  Checklist..... **page 12**



Introduction



Responsible businesses know that providing easily accessible, high quality drinking water for their employees is **essential**, and that ensuring that the workforce is properly hydrated will have benefits for their overall health and wellbeing, resulting in happier, healthier, more productive workers. That's why in many places it's a mandatory requirement to have a supply of **good quality drinking water**.

THE CHALLENGE:

Choosing a water solution can be a more difficult business decision than one might initially imagine, with several different factors to consider for each specific requirement.

For those who understand the increasingly complex and fast-moving **warehousing and logistics industry** there are very specific requirements that need to be met when deciding what water dispensing solution to opt for. These are different from many other types of businesses, such as offices or retail, where installing drinking water coolers may be a much more straightforward task.

YOUR GUIDE:

This guide will take you through each of these considerations and highlight the best way to address them.



Physical Challenges: Your premises and the operating environment can have a significant effect on the most appropriate type of water cooler to choose.



People Concerns: Considering human usage factors, specific to the working patterns in the logistics and warehousing environment.



Health & Safety: Ensuring the business is compliant with legislation and provides a safe environment.



Point of use water coolers are compact and discreet with a **small footprint** compared to large bottles

Physical Challenges



SPACE CONSIDERATIONS:

In the warehousing and logistics industry, every square inch of space has a monetary value which good businesses will want to **maximize as best as they can**. While a bottled water cooler itself doesn't take up much room, storing the full (waiting to be used) and empty (waiting to be collected) bottles that go on top of the cooler takes up a great deal of space.

Point-of-use water coolers, that dispense filtered water directly from the mains supply, are **compact** and discreet, with a **small footprint** and require no additional accessories that need to be stored anywhere. In fact no further equipment other than a cup is required, meaning that the space previously used to store the large, cumbersome bottles can be put to more profitable use.

WORKPLACE ISSUES:

Additionally, the atmosphere in warehouses can often be dry and dusty or very hot and humid, depending on the nature of the business. Bottled water coolers often struggle to cope with these temperatures, as they are basic machines and are not necessarily manufactured to deal with difficult conditions.

Point-of-use water coolers work particularly well in colder premises, as the lines carrying water into the building are insulated and enable **water to flow freely**.

Bottles for bottled water coolers are often stored in unheated areas and can become "slushy" when the temperature drops, making it difficult to extract water until they have thawed out.

However, good quality point-of-use water coolers are engineered to much **higher standards** and built to not only last in the harshest of conditions, but to continue to dispense perfectly chilled water whatever the ambient temperature.

Physical Challenges (continued)

BACTERIA RISKS:

There are also point-of-use units which utilize **antibacterial surface protection** agents which stop the spread of bacteria, ensuring that even the smallest airborne particles will not compromise the quality of the water. Features such as carbon filtration, or reverse osmosis (where required) and UV purification systems all work to ensure the best quality drinking water possible.

WATER PRESSURE:

Another concern of those in the warehousing and logistics industries is that in large warehouses or other premises, a point-of-use water cooler may be some distance from the mains supply, resulting in problems with the pressure. However, any reputable company will be able to provide a customized installation in all types of premises, and will take into account all the appropriate variables including distance from the mains, ensuring no loss of pressure at the dispensing point.



EXAMPLE:

Working on an international basis with one of the world's leading online retailers, Waterlogic has installed coolers in their distribution centers in Europe and the Americas. Most installations were complex and in central points requiring a long run of pipe to the cooler - more than 200 yards in many cases. **A constant stream of cold, hygienic drinking water** was ensured by selecting coolers with high chilling capacity, carbon multi-filtration, BioCote antimicrobial protection on key surfaces, and Firewall™ UV purification for ultra-high purification of the water and the dispense nozzle.



The water cooler is one of the top eight **hot spots** for germs and bacteria in the workplace - a cooler with antimicrobial surface protection will protect against germs



Did you know?
To stay properly
hydrated,
men should drink
13 cups
of water and women
9 cups per day*

* Source: The Institute of Medicine (IoM)

People Issues



Considering the strict shift patterns and often 24/7 operations common in these industries, when deciding on a drinking water solution, you should ensure that the unit that you choose is able to cope with this, and to select a water cooler that is designed to manage dispensing high volumes of water while still retaining a **consistently chilled** (or ambient) temperature.

TEMPERATURE & VOLUME:

Bottled water coolers or low quality point-of-use machines will often be unable to reach this level, and after the first few uses in a short period of time will start dispensing warmer, less palatable water.

It is therefore worth investing in a good quality cooler with a large storage tank to ensure that it can provide a constant stream of perfectly chilled water so that everyone can benefit.

Related to this is that people in this industry often remain in one workstation for the duration of the working time, and as they are unable to keep leaving their workstation to keep refilling their glass of water, they prefer to use large sports-type bottles, so that they can have an **adequate supply of drinking water** at their side until their breaktime.

This is a challenge for bottled water coolers and lower specification point-of-use units, as filling up several 32oz bottles in turn results in chilled water for the first, but is then followed by increasingly tepid and unpleasant water for subsequent users.

People Issues (continued)

Using the experience, knowledge and wider product range of point-of-use water cooler suppliers can also have **tangible benefits** to your business.



EXAMPLE:

Waterlogic provided a solution for an international distribution organization's depot which originally had two bottled water coolers in a sorting facility. By replacing two coolers with one point-of-use unit, but placing it in a more appropriate location for staff to access, their downtime was reduced and **productivity actually increased by 18%**.

DISPENSING HEIGHT:

It can also be tricky to fill a bottle from a bottled water cooler, as it's designed to be used to fill cups, so bottle users have to tilt the bottle into a small space to fill it up, and often end up with water spilling or running down their wrist.

Point-of-use units have a large dispensing area which can accommodate larger sports-type bottles with ease.



Did you know?
Losing as little as
3-5%
of bodyweight in
fluid can negatively
impact on
concentration,
judgement and
reaction time*

* Source: Armstrong et al, University of Connecticut 2011, published In The Journal of Nutrition (JN).



POU

Health & Safety Benefits:

- No bottles to lift
- No bottles to store
- Water direct from the mains, freshly filtered and purified
- Less accidental water spills

Health & Safety Issues



The warehousing and logistics industry has a particular focus on **employee safety and health** in the workplace, as it encompasses a wide range of business types with a number of potential hazards that need to be managed by the employer.

BOTTLED WATER RISKS:

There are a number of risks that can be caused by using bottled water coolers in this industry, such as the risk of manual handling the large, cumbersome bottles onto the water cooler, and there are a number of occasions when employees have won lawsuits with back injuries sustained in this fashion. Even if proper training is provided, accidents do happen and having valued members of staff away from their regular work due to having a workplace injury is frustrating and costly for the employer. Better is a point-of-use unit which provides a **constant flow of chilled water** with no requirement for heavy lifting at all.

In addition, large stacks of plastic bottles in warehouses take up valuable space and are vulnerable to causing leaks. In premises where there is a lot of electrical equipment this is particularly dangerous as water interfering with this type of machinery can cause fires, but it also creates a slip hazard for employees. Spillages can also happen with the small drip trays that are a feature of bottled water coolers.

POINT-OF-USE (POU) BENEFITS:

On the other hand, good quality point of use machines have leak detection systems which alert the user before the leak becomes too serious, and the large and unattractive piles of plastic bottles are banished from your warehouse, replaced by a **sleek, modern, efficient** point-of-use dispenser.

Health & Safety Issues (continued)

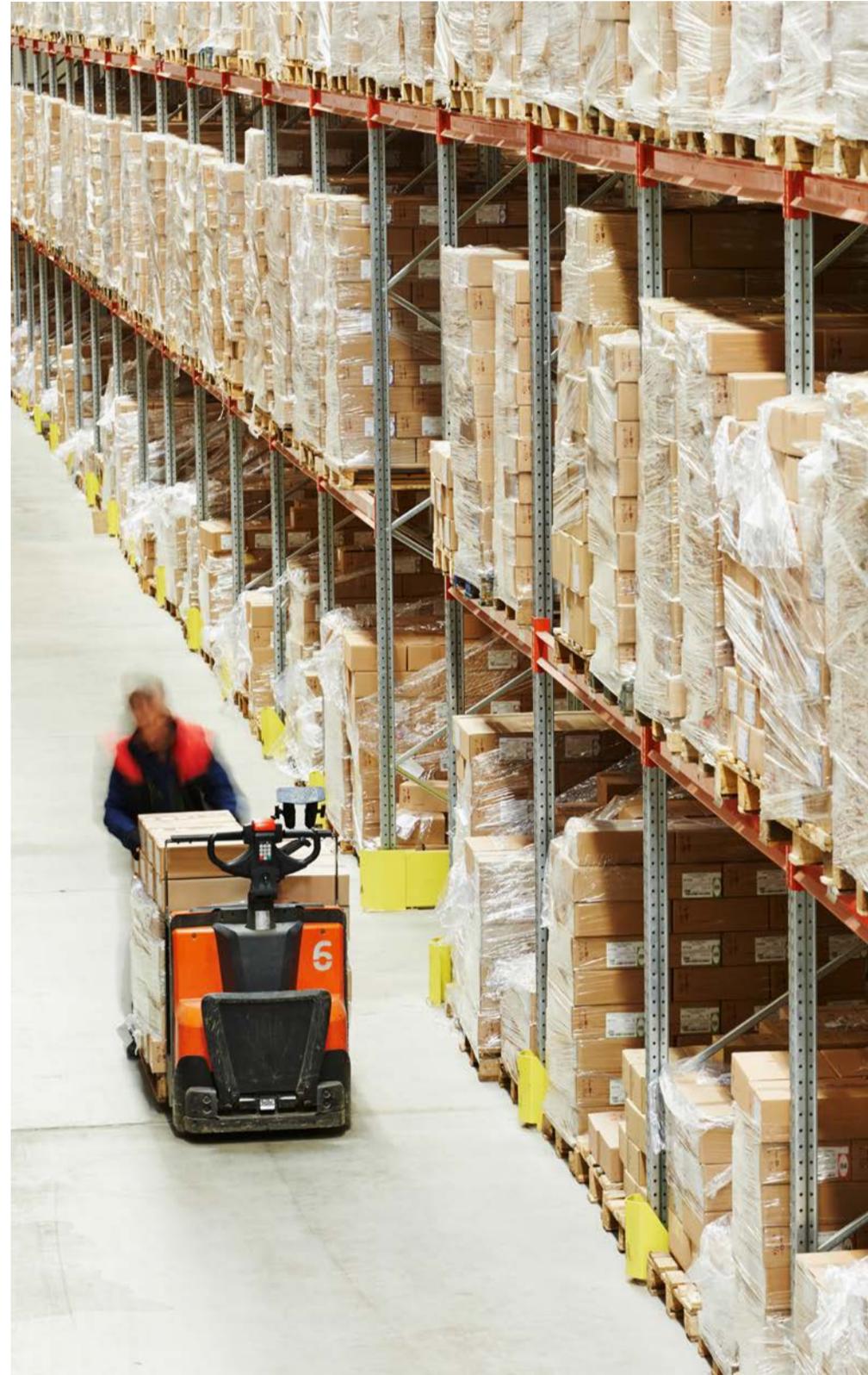
DELIVERY SECURITY:

Then there's the security implications of frequent deliveries of bottles from bottled water suppliers - non-accredited drivers coming in and out of the building on a regular basis is a risk that all good employers should be looking to reduce.

SECURE & FRESH WATER:

A more reliable point-of-use unit will only require a six-monthly service, and reputable organizations will ensure that their technicians are highly trained and certified. Point-of-use units are also more secure in terms of the water quality which is a particular concern in businesses where there is a lot of dust or other airborne contaminants - good units will have sealed tanks, utilize food grade piping and properly specified filtration to remove any impurities prior to dispensing, whereas bottles, once the seal has been broken, can allow bacteria and other airborne particles to travel back into the bottle, and dust and other particles in the atmosphere can clog up the system.

With units that aren't used often, these microbes can multiply and adversely affect the quality of the water, but because point-of-use water coolers have a constantly moving supply of water this is virtually eliminated and the **best quality water is dispensed**.





The energy used to pump, process, transport and refrigerate the bottled water consumed in the US is the same as **50 million barrels** of oil a year*

*Source: Earth Policy Institute (<http://www.earth-policy.org/books/wote/wotech8>)

Benefits of Point-of-Use Water Coolers



As well as the specific benefits of using point-of-use water coolers in the warehousing and logistics industry, there are many benefits of using these units rather than bottled water coolers which apply to all businesses in all industries.



COST BENEFITS

Businesses can make considerable savings by getting rid of their bottled water coolers and replacing them with point-of-use machines. Firstly you'll only pay the same, agreed monthly cost, regardless of how much water you drink. You'll also eliminate the landfill or recycling costs associated with disposal of the plastic bottles, as well as the administrative and staff costs associated with ordering, storing and changing the bottles.



WATER QUALITY AND TASTE BENEFITS

Water from a bottled water cooler can be riddled with bacteria, when the bottle is placed on the cooler, then air gets back into the bottle and creates an ideal environment for germs to breed. Point-of-use coolers use the free running water supply and carbon filtration or reverse osmosis - and on many units UV technology - to all but eliminate bacteria from the water, providing a high quality, great tasting drink.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The environmental impact of trucks driving their loads full of plastic bottles across the country is huge, and when compared to utilizing the water that is already available in your premises it's clear that point-of-use is a much more environmentally friendly way to provide your staff with drinking water.

Benefits of Point-of-Use Water Coolers (continued)



SERVICE BENEFITS

Having a dedicated account manager to look after your needs is part of the package with reputable point-of-use water cooler organizations - rather than the basic or non-existent service that you'd get with bottled water cooler companies. Plus the machines will usually only require a 6 or 12 monthly service visit and good companies will use qualified and certified personnel for this purpose.



HEALTH & HYGIENE BENEFITS

Using a point-of-use water cooler which has hygiene features built in is a great investment for your staff. Not only will the best quality water be dispensed, through the use of carbon filtration, reverse osmosis and UV technology, but some units also use other features such as antibacterial surface protection, and are designed so that the dispense button and nozzle are separated, ensuring that air- or skin-borne bacteria don't get into the mechanism.



Your Quick Reminder as to Why POU is the Best Drinking Water Solution

PEOPLE WHO DRINK POU WATER:



- ✓ Stay hydrated
- ✓ Stay productive
- ✓ Stay healthy

POU IS IDEAL FOR ALL PLACES:



- ✓ Install anywhere
- ✓ Super hygienic
- ✓ Compact and neat

POU IS HEALTH & SAFETY WISE:



- ✓ No spills or slips
- ✓ No back aches
- ✓ Simple and secure

DID YOU KNOW?

Productivity can increase by up to 18% with improved access to drinking water



Space freed up from using a POU cooler instead of bottles covers cost of the POU



Risk reduction savings from switching to POU can be up to 5 times the rental cost of POU



THE BENEFITS OF GOING POU



Cost: pay the same amount regardless of how much water you use



Environment: POU is kinder on the environment than traditional plastic bottled coolers



Taste: POU offers better tasting water than bottled as filters or purifies just before dispensed



Quality: a POU machine offers an endless supply of quality water



Service: with POU normally get peace of mind with scheduled servicing and account management



Did you know?

A **1%** drop in hydration means a **12%** drop in productivity*

* Wasterlund, DS, Chaseling, J, Burstrom L
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14985138>)

Checklist



POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A WATER SOLUTION:

- ✓ Point-of-use water coolers eliminate the **space** taken up with large piles of full and empty bottles.
- ✓ A large cold supply might be needed to cope with large groups of people filling up bottles at the same time.
- ✓ A supplier who is able to deal with customized installations to find the best location for your coolers.
- ✓ Point-of-use water coolers can deal with variation in air temperature common in the warehousing and logistics industry.
- ✓ Using a point-of-use cooler means **eliminating the risk to staff** from handling and changing bottles, which also means an increase in their productivity.
- ✓ Bottled water coolers need frequent deliveries into your premises by unauthorized personnel, a point-of-use unit only needs a six or twelve monthly service visit.
- ✓ **Product quality is much higher** with a point-of-use water cooler - they use sealed tanks, carbon filtration or reverse osmosis and UV technology to give the best possible water.
- ✓ Leak detection systems in point of use coolers also prevent large amounts of water leaking - with a bottled water cooler up to 5 gallons can leak at one time.
- ✓ The water solution provider should be able to quote significant references in your sector and have proven experience in meeting the specific demands of warehousing and logistics environments.
- ✓ The supplier should provide **a service guarantee**.



For more information

about how Waterlogic's innovative range of point-of-use water coolers can work for your business:



Call + 844-283-3514



Visit www.waterlogicusa.com



Email info@waterlogicusa.com